

St. Paul's

September 2025



Pastor's Message
Pg. 2

Council News
Pg. 3

September & October Birthdays
Pg. 4

Church News
Pg. 5-13

Usher Schedule
Pg. 14

St. Paul's Prayer List
Pg. 15

Raise Right Scrip Cards
Pg. 16

NEXT BEACON

October 17th

ARTICLES DUE BY

October 10th

Thanks to everyone for your kind words of support and encouragement since I began this new position as your pastor on September 1. It has been especially exciting to experience from a new perspective the passion that people in our congregation have for reaching others with the love of Jesus.

The following words were the conclusion of my sermon on September 7, but this seems an appropriate time to share them again:

As I begin my ministry with you as your new pastor, my prayer is that we all pledge to do our absolute best to relate to each other as beloved brothers and sisters. May we endeavor to love and respect one another as the children of God that we all are, not because of what we can do for each other or for the church, or because of any other attributes or qualifications we may or may not have. May we pledge to speak the truth to each other with an attitude of love and with words that are kind, and to welcome with this same love all whom we encounter in our daily lives and who join us for worship as part of St. Paul's. May we be known in our community as a people who exemplify the profound words of Jesus: "Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

Our world desperately needs this kind of love, as we were painfully reminded just three days after that sermon when a political activist in our country was assassinated. While it may still be a while before we have a clear understanding of the shooter's motivations, regardless we can agree immediately that the act stands counter to the love of God that we confess. The same is true for the shooting the same day at a high school in Colorado, the terrorism of 9/11 and no doubt for many other acts of violence that do not make the news but still are equally tragic for those who experience them.

As we pray for those impacted by these events and others in our community and our world, let us also pray for God's direction on how we can take an active role in sharing the kind of love that diffuses such tensions.

And, as you pray, please pray for me, that God would give me wisdom and compassion to minister as your pastor.

In addition to your prayer, I also want to make a few other requests.

I am in the unusual situation of being your brand-new pastor but also a longtime member of the congregation. Along with that, the church also has a new office manager in Sue Jordan. Sue is doing a wonderful job, and since she started her position about a week before I did, she is the veteran in the office! But please bear with us as we adapt to our new duties and try to figure out where important things are located. Thanks already to many church members who have eagerly helped us with these transitions.

Even though I may recognize your face and/or may be familiar with your name, I may not yet be able to link the two, especially if we have not worked together in the past on a church committee or project. Please help me learn your name, and please show patience with me if this does not come immediately. The church nametags can be very helpful for this.

Also, you may know that I have hearing loss and wear hearing aids, so sometimes I do not catch everything that is said. Voices with certain pitches can be especially challenging. The safest way to inform me of important information like a prayer request or need is in writing, whether on paper or by email at pastor@StPaulsUCCcl.org. And please bear with me if I ask you to repeat something. Our conversation is valuable.

My last request concerns where you sit in the sanctuary. I certainly understand that we all have our favorite locations and pews, and that sometimes these preferences are rooted in health or similar issues. But I want to ask you to consider sitting closer to the front of the sanctuary if that is feasible. If you have not done so recently, I ask that you view the recording of a St. Paul's service on YouTube. Because many of us tend to sit in the back of the sanctuary and thus are not visible to the camera, this gives the impression to online viewers that only six or eight people are present. The back of your head will be on the screen for only a short time, but it will make a positive impression for us—and you may even find that you like sitting closer!

Finally, many people have asked me what I wish to be called in conversation. Honestly, Eric is fine. If you feel more comfortable prefacing that with Pastor, Reverend, Doctor, or whatever, or if you prefer one of those titles with Mason instead, by all means feel free to do so. My only real name preference is that I am Eric F. Mason rather than Eric Mason in print.

Eric

September 2025



Recently, a church member asked about the financial updates published in our worship bulletins. This was discussed at our Church Council meeting, and we thought it would help to provide some clarity.

Each month, we review the church's finances and compare them to our annual budget. This year's budget accounted for the Pastoral Search Committee's work to find a new pastor during the first six months, with Pastor Jim Benzing serving as our Bridge Pastor. A Bridge Pastor leads Sunday worship but holds another job during the week—Pastor Jim worked as a permanent substitute teacher. This arrangement allowed us to budget less for Pastoral Expenses in the first half of 2025. Our monthly financial updates in the bulletin show higher income than expenses so far this year. However, these updates don't fully reflect our annual budget, which includes increased Pastoral Expenses for the second half of 2025 to cover the salary of our new Settled Pastor. Now that the search is complete and Pastor Eric Mason has been called to serve, these additional expenses will appear in future updates. The surplus from the first half of 2025 will help cover these planned costs for the remainder of the year.

We are deeply grateful for our Church Treasurer, Fred Mullard, for his excellent budget management, and for the Pastoral Search Committee's dedication in finding our new full-time pastor, Eric Mason.

We also want to thank each church member for your generous financial contributions to St. Paul's UCC. As we move forward, we ask for your continued support through the rest of 2025.

Since Pastor Greg Lucas's retirement, St. Paul's UCC has been faithfully served by pulpit supply pastors, an interim pastor, and a bridge pastor. We appreciate their leadership over the past two years, but we're especially thankful for the Pastoral Search Committee's efforts. They listened to our congregation's feedback and worked diligently to find a full-time Settled Pastor to provide the pastoral care and ministerial leadership we need.

With Stewardship season approaching, we hope that you will reflect on what St. Paul's UCC means to you and your family. As we begin our ministry with Pastor Eric Mason, your support of our church through your time, talents, and treasures will help us provide spiritual, caring, and loving support throughout the week, not just on Sundays.

The Church Council is grateful for your commitment to St. Paul's UCC and looks forward to a bright future together.

In His Service.

Bill Eich
St. Paul's Church Council



Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Donna Butler	9/1
Gordie Triefenbach	9/3
Linda Christensen	9/6
Kathi Seibt	9/9
Barbara Jelinek	9/10
David Loehner	9/12
Bill Eich	9/17
Jessica Butler	9/17
Gerri Whetham	9/18
Margaret Tobin	9/19
Connie Chappell	9/20
Tom Braun	9/21
Jackie Mason	9/26
Jordan Lotesto	9/26
Meghan Schneeweiss	9/26
Warren Spencer	9/26
Linda Kranz	9/29
Randy Kriegel	9/29
Krista Huffman	9/29



James Ticknor	10/1
Lynn Virzi	10/3
Lisa Sadlik	10/4
Rebecca Johnson	10/7
Julie Moore	10/7
Joan Bourdage	10/10
Ken Hansen	10/11
Nancy Lutz	10/14
Mary Benz	10/15
John Whetham	10/15
Dolores Broker	10/16
Emily Butler	10/16
Ginny Deuerling	10/21
Samuel Reckamp	10/21
Caitlin Monahan	10/23
Abby Pagnotta	10/24
Jan Rickard	10/25
Donna Reber	10/26
Trent Eckhardt	10/28



Church News

Compassion International Sponsored Children

Last Spring, May 4, 2025, St. Paul's had a Compassion International Sunday. During that time FIVE additional children were sponsored by an individual or family.

It is time to update our prayer list of sponsored children! Could you please send an email to Linda Ticknor with your child's name and country where the child lives. I would like to make sure that the five new children are correctly listed in addition to any other Compassion children others may sponsor. If you would like to include some information about your child, how long you have sponsored, etc. that would be appreciated. We can also work together to share more about your child to our congregation.

Our St. Paul's Compassion Child, Jiq/ Adrian has sent another letter.

This letter is now available in our Narthex.

Jiq's Birthday is November 26. He will be 19 years old.

A birthday card will be in the narthex for signing so his card can be sent in October to Jiq.

Thank you, Gary and Sheryl Gee, for acknowledging Jiq's birthday with an extra donation.

Thank you to our letter writers and the month-by-month sponsorship of Jiq. From March 2025 through January 2026 Jiq has been sponsored by the following church members.

Ken and Karen Hansen, Bev Tyhsen, Jan Czosnyka, Jean Hautzinger, Cathy Schmidt, Pastor Eric and Jackie Mason, Ken and Barb Thrun, Nancy Schmitz and Gordie and Cheryl Triefenbach.

May 4, 2025, St. Paul's United Church of Christ learned more about Compassion International, the Christian ministry that partners with churches across the globe to release children from the cycle of poverty.

Compassion is Christ Driven. To truly overcome poverty children, need to experience the love and hope of Jesus. Sponsors help ensure that every child in the program hears the gospel. They learn to know Jesus.

Compassion is Church Driven. Children in extreme poverty face dangers like hunger, abuse, child marriage and trafficking. Compassion's local church partners create caring faith communities and work to protect children, prevent abuse and empower them to take an active role in their own safety. When abuse is reported, they act swiftly to ensure intervention, restoration and healing.

Compassion is Child Focused. Children in poverty often lack access to medical care, trapping them in a cycle of illness and hardship. That's why sponsorship provides every child with yearly medical checkups, emergency care and essential resources like wheelchairs, hearing aids and glasses. This support allows children to grow up healthy and hopeful.

Blessings,
Linda Ticknor
St. Paul's Church Member
815-382-8295
lindaticknor@gmail.com

Beacon 2nd Crop 2025

CROP WALK 2025 PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

You are all welcome to be part of this year's McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk held at our church on Sunday, September 28, 2025.

WATCH FOR SIGN-UP SHEETS ON VARIOUS WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Be a walker and raise the money for CWS and our local food pantries.

Sponsor a walker. You will spot them with the CROP sticker. I also have a running list by the Crop table in the narthex.

Donate a non-perishable; item for the 4 food pantries we support with CROP

Be leader or participant in the organization of the snacks and drinks for the walkers when they return. This will be set up in Fellowship Hall.

Be a greeter

Help man the Period Pack kit assembly in Fellowship Hall

Help with narthex set up AFTER our Sunday Worship.

Balloon Crew needed for last minute decorations.

And others needs that will be added to this list J

PHOTO OF OUR VOLUNTEERS AND WALKERS 2024



VOLUNTEERS/WALKERS



**LAST YEAR WAS SO WONDERFUL AS MANY OF YOU DID VOLUNTEER.
BELOW IS A PORTION FROM BEACON ARTICLE FROM 2024**

(2024)... I will share my gratitude along with **the gratitude on behalf of the McHenry County**

Crop Hunger Walk Committee. We are so GRATEFUL to those who sponsored walkers and the walkers that took the efforts to ask for donations. We are grateful for your volunteering of time and talents that made St. Paul's a welcoming host church. This committee is so happy with the "event". I was part of conversations sharing how impressed they were by the ease and flow of day. The help and kindness that was shown to their congregation members and friends was appreciated!

St. Paul's, as host church, you met many needs on Sunday. Thank you.

You provided fellowship for people that might have been alone or have not been in companionship for a few days. You provided cheer, laughter and smiles. You provided nourishment. One walker's companion quickly popped down to FH to get "sugar" for his friend who was "resting" outside due to the 4-mile walk. His blood sugar was low. You prayed for others. You provided a safe place for those who were quiet.

You are part of some wonderful memories that will be related to friends and family. You provided hope, to those we will not meet, through your efforts under the umbrella of CWS Crop Hunger Walk.

Join Team St. Paul's and talk the talk and walk the walk. September 28, 2025 Walk start time 2 pm at St. Paul's UCC

*Do we ever have enough walkers? No. Do we ever have enough money raised? No
What we do have are dedicated people to CWS Crop Hunger Walk.*

We talk about ending hunger and walk to raise awareness and funds to support CWS programing and four local food pantries. It's another way to have conversation about food, famine, clean drinking water, choices, and a heart of giving. It is a time to focus our prayers to those that are hungry. A time for prayers to include the McHenry local food pantries and those they serve. A time for prayers of discernment, how to use time, money and energy. We are all motivated and inspired by different ways of education about hunger.

What resonates with you? Statistics, Imagery, Videos or Bible Verses?

Statistics

Your participation in CWS Crop walks impacts individual and families in more that 35 countries.

In many developing nations, people could walk up to six miles a day to get food and water.

One in nine people worldwide lack access to clean water and a healthy diet.

Hunger is the number one risk to global health, killing more people each year than AIDS, malaria and TB combined.

673 Million people face hunger worldwide.

The following bullets are from 8/08/2025 SOFI report from FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO examines how rising food prices are shaping access to healthy diets and driving food insecurity and malnutrition.

Global hunger declined slightly for a second year, but the gains are modest and uneven. Africa and Western Asia continue to see hunger rise. High and persistent prices for nutritious foods are putting quality diets further out of reach, especially for children in low-income settings.

- **2.6 billion people** could not afford a healthy diet in 2024. The global number has fallen since 2019, but affordability worsened in Africa and in many low-income and lower-middle-income countries (excluding India).
- If current trends continue, **512 million people** could face hunger in 2030, nearly 60 percent of them in Africa.
- High prices may push families toward cheaper, ultra-processed foods with low nutritional value while fruits, vegetables and high-quality proteins remain expensive.
- New analysis shows a direct link between prices and acute malnutrition: a **10 percent increase in food prices** is associated with a **2.7 to 4.3 percent rise in child wasting** and a **4.8 to 6.1 percent rise in severe wasting** among children under five.

Imagery

***Water systems & increased access to safe drinking water.**



****Tools & training to help families grow the food they need.**



*****Animals to give families food security & economic stability.**



Videos

Click on links to learn more.

Timor Zero Hunger CROP Hunger Walk <https://youtu.be/t3wuWBqWnpQ>

CWS and CROP Hunger Walk Vision <https://youtu.be/igbyzG11rzc>

Mama Nguyo/Kenya Video <https://youtu.be/hbagWoYDpic>

CWS The Ecumenical Statement (not video) on Hunger Justice Cut and paste link <https://cwsglobal.org>



Bible Verses

The act of feeding the hungry not only fills empty stomachs but nourishes spirits and builds communities of compassion. Many Christians may not realize the importance of addressing hunger in our midst. As we dive into God's Word, let's be open to understanding how we can play a part in this divine calling. The Bible is filled with verses that illuminate our responsibilities towards the needy, encouraging us to respond with love and kindness. So, let's meditate on these verses and see what God has to say about one of the most fundamental acts of love: feeding the hungry.

MATTHEW 25:35

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." – Matthew 25:35

MARK 14:7

"The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me." – Mark 14:7

PROVERBS 22:9

"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." – Proverbs 22:9

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." – Lamentations 3:22-23

What resonated with you?

Statistics, Imagery, Videos or the Bible Verses?

Stop by our church narthex after church and let me know.

I'd love to talk to you about our McHenry Crop Hunger Walk.



2024 25% of funds raised, \$4,409.00 were divided between 4 local food pantries:
Cary Grove, Crystal Lake, Grafton and Algonquin LITH food pantries.

2025 we will support the same food pantries.

Day of walk please bring a non-perishable food item. The four pantries will have representatives here to divide the bounty.

After our church service items will be placed in our sanctuary and be part of the
Crop Walk Kick off at 2 pm. All walkers, from all churches participating in the walk
will also be asked to bring an item.

Linda Ticknor

St. Paul's Church Member

Event Coordinator

McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk

Church News



With the start of the new semester, will you please consider donating again to the North Elementary Snack Locker for the 2025/2026 academic year. The school administration and staff are sincerely appreciative of this support.

Assistance is needed for a supplemental supply of pre-packaged individual snacks for some kids whose parents are unable to provide them for various reasons. The front office maintains a small supply for them, so they have snacks along with all the other kids.

Ideal items St. Paul's can donate are *Goldfish, pretzels, fruit roll-up snacks, Cheez-Its and other multi-pack items on the healthier side as opposed to candy and potato chips.* And, as we all know, nothing with peanuts or other nuts. There is a designated basket in the narthex area for these food goods by the marketplace table. The plan will be for me to drop off our donated items one or twice a month throughout the school year. Please let me know if you have any questions at or email me ctrief@gmail.com

Cheryll Triefenbach

Church News

Mary Circle Salad Luncheon

Come for the delicious salads
and St. Paul's fellowship.

All Are Welcome

September 18th | 1:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Fellowship Hall



Please RSVP to:
Sondra Matterness
815-482-7922 or email
sondra4633@gmail.com

or
Cheryll Trifenbach
815-382-9367

McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk September 28, 2025

Hosted by St. Paul's United Church of Christ

WHEN YOU WALK, LIVES ARE transformed!

For over 50 years, CROP Hunger Walks have been empowering communities across the United States to respond to the global challenges of hunger, poverty, access to education, and clean water.

SUNDAY 9/28

**1:30 Sign
in/Registration
Photographs
Music**

2:00 Walk Kickoff

1-mile route

4-mile route

**CWS Kits Assembly
Community Fellowship**

With every step you take, families and communities have the chance to lift themselves out of extreme poverty. We know that your friends and family will be inspired by your care and generosity. You show us that everyday people like yourself are champions in the fight against hunger!

WALK WITH YOUR CHURCH

Set aside the date and watch for sign up with St. Paul's UCC CL TEAM!

With every step you take, you are transforming communities by ensuring access to nutritious food, giving kids a chance at a good education, increasing availability of clean water for drinking and hygiene.

SIGN IN/ REGISTRATION

Participating teams need to sign in/register with their team, turn in the money donation envelopes and sign a waiver. During this time, we will take Team Photos, individual photos, some fun candid shots.

Willing to help like last year?
We will need many hands to make our church ready.

**Set-up Saturday 9/27
TTBD**

**Break-down 9/28 4 pm
2025 TEAMS**

Cary United Methodist
Living Waters Lutheran
Bethany Lutheran
Ridgefield CL Presbyterian
First Church
St. Paul's UCC

CWS Kits Assembly

Kit materials will be purchased directly from CWS with money raised during our fundraising events. During the walk, we invite those who choose not to walk to help assemble kits as well as the walkers.

More details and information are in the Narthex. Stop by before or after church. Questions? Contact Linda Ticknor 815 382 8295.

KICKOFF **Come together**

Time for prayer and a mission moment before we "walk." Teams usually walk together splitting up for the 1 or 4 mile routes. Joggers, runners, walkers, dogs, all are welcome.

Follow the signs leading you through downtown CL if you are walking the 4 miles!

Usher | Lay Reader | Greeter

Worship Schedule

SEPTEMBER

MONTH	ROLE	NAME
SEPTEMBER	Usher Captain:	Jim Henneman
7	Usher 1	Lauren Henneman
	Usher 2	Lynn Virzi
	Usher 3	Wendy Manser
	Greeter 1	Gary Voss
	Greeter 2	Carla Voss
	Liturgist	Linda Ticknor
SEPTEMBER	Usher Captain:	Ken Hansen
14	Usher 1	Karen Hansen
	Usher 2	Steve Tobin
	Greeter 1	Don Roxworthy
	Greeter 2	JoEllen Roxworthy
	Liturgist	Gary Gee
SEPTEMBER	Usher Captain:	Ken Thrun
21	Usher 1	Wendy Domanico
	Usher 2	Bill Eich
	Greeter 1	Arlene Tuscano
	Liturgist	Fred Mullard
SEPTEMBER	Usher Captain:	John Whetham
28	Usher 1	Donna Layne-Albano
	Usher 2	Claudia Terrones
	Greeter 1	Jean Hautzinger
	Liturgist	Ruth Costello

St. Paul's Prayer List



ST. PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

St. Paul's Members

Julie Menke

St. Paul's Homebound Members

Warren Spencer, John Kennedy, Pete Singer

Deceased Members and Friends

Garry Winter

Friends

Jim MacMillan

Military - Stateside

Beth Roxworthy

Sponsored Children

Andrian (Indonesia), Daniel W. (Indonesia), Nicole V. (Bolivia), Nicole S. (USA), Tran Thi Chin (Vietnam), Breny (Columbia), Alfred (Tanzania), Maria, Jobenta M. (Haiti), Emyli (Guatemala) Jiq (Andrian) (Indonesia)

St. Paul's UCC

485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org | Website: www.stpaulsucccl.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: [stpauls_ucc_cl](https://www.facebook.com/stpauls_ucc_cl)

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.

Summer Office Hours | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Closed on Friday May 30 - August 29th

St. Paul's Vision

Call to serve

Our

Neighbors' and Members'

Needs by

Engaging as

Christ's people

Through service and Love

Church Staff

Reverend Eric Mason

847-754-0902 - pastor@stpaulsucccl.org

Sue Jordan, Office Manager

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Church Council

Bill Eich, Council President

847-567-4232 - wmgeich@gmail.com

Steve Tobin, Council Vice President

815-482-0113 - stobin4500@hotmail.com

Cathy Schmidt, Secretary

815-353-6417 - schmdt5@sbcglobal.net

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

815-245-3287 - jennifer.a.good@gmail.com

John Whetham

815-276-3919 - whetham484@gmail.com

Kevin Kruse

847-877-1503 - kckruse@comcast.net

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847-772-3647 - marsha1249@gmail.com

Deb Patterson

847-815-3018 - patter.debboo@att.net

Ken Thrun

847-710-0214 - bartee13@sbcglobal.net

Give a Gift Card



IN STOCK RAISERIGHT CARDS as of 8/11/25

BP	4 @ \$50
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Carter's	4 @ \$25
Chili's	3 @ \$25
Jewel	5 @ \$25/ 5 @ \$100
Kohl's	1 @ \$25
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Menards	1 @ \$100
McDonald's	15 @ \$10
Panera	6 @ \$10
Red Lobster	2 @ \$25
Shell	5 @ \$50
Speedway	1 @ \$100
Starbucks	8 @ \$25 / 10 @ \$10
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Synergy (Mobile)	3 @ \$50
TJ Maxx	1 @ \$100
Walmart	10 @ \$250

As always, cards are available to purchase at the Marketplace most Sundays or can be ordered and dropped off at the church for pickup. Checks should be made out to St. Paul's UCC.

Karen Radovich. nuknees@mc.net

EASY AND CONVENIENT

These products make it easy to earn on the go.

PrestoPay™

The secure online payment system for families that lets them pay for orders and receive e-gift cards and reload their cards immediately.

MyScripWallet™

Our mobile website where families can buy physical gift cards, reloads, and eGift cards. Directly onto their phones great for when you are in line at a store. You can reload or buy cards to go straight to your phone!

Follow Us on Social Media!

Keep up with St. Paul's latest news, information, and connection. LIKE and share our content. Visit our NEW website by scanning the QR. code. — — —>

